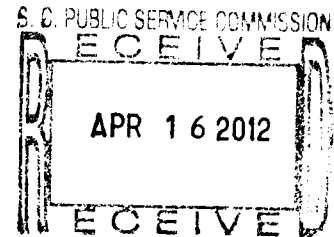


236218

April 7, 2012

Daniel Wright, Vice Chairman
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Suite 100
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210



Dear Mr. Wright:

Thank you for bringing the Commission and the Regulatory Staff to Fort Mill on April 3 to receive input regarding the water supply agreement between Utility Services and York County, affecting the water supply of the Foxwood neighborhood. I have been a resident of the neighborhood for three years, and have some observations I'd like to share with you.

I was shocked at the price of the water when I moved in. I had lived in Charlotte for 46 years before moving here. My bill averaged \$35 there. Here it is \$85. And Utility Services receives the water free from Wikoff.

We have been attending meetings regarding this issue with DHEC and Utility Services for over two years. DHEC has said repeatedly they didn't know of the water quality problems because no one had complained through official channels. Since then, many complaints have been registered. As far as we know, DHEC has done nothing.

When Utility Services has been asked what is causing the quality problems with the water, specifically, black material in it, bad odor, bad taste, they said they had no idea. When asked if it could be corrosion in the pipes, they said the pipes were PVC and plastic does not corrode. When asked if it could originate in the water tower, they had no idea. When asked if it had ever been cleaned out, they said not since they had bought the system.

It is clear that hooking up to York County water would resolve four of our problems:

The inadequate water pressure would be eliminated.

The carcinogens would be eliminated.

The frequent service interruptions would cease.

The minerals in the water which cause the corrosion of people's fixtures would be eliminated.

But we residents still need to know: At what cost? If the objectionable qualities of the water are resulting from corrosion in the pipes, that problem would not be eliminated, because Utilities Inc. said they had no intention of replacing the pipes. So the residents are being asked to approve an action which will cost the average household an additional \$3.50 - \$5.00 per month, without any guarantee that their primary problem of water quality will be alleviated.

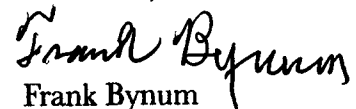
The cost of hooking up to York County water is another cause of concern for the residents. Ms. Edwards of the Regulatory Staff said she could not give a figure for the cost of this because it hasn't happened. Companies get bids and estimates on this type of work all the time. She later approximated the cost at \$150,000. This is a daunting figure to people of modest means. The question is, how much is it going to cost each homeowner? There are approximately 200 homes

in Foxwood, which would equate to \$750 per home. Will the entire cost of this hookup be borne by us? Utilities Inc. has been receiving approximately \$80 X 200, or \$16,000 per month -- \$192,000 per year -- since they bought the system, and they have not put a single dollar into capital improvements or upgrading of the system since they bought it. Why should they not pay for it? And if the residents have to pay for it, can that \$750 per household be spread over a period of time, say five years, (\$12.50/month) and added on to the monthly bill?

There are several people in the neighborhood who are extremely skeptical about anything Utilities Inc. proposes, a result of having to deal with them unsuccessfully for many years. Representative Ralph Norman gave you the point of view of a developer and businessman who, in dealing with them in River Hills, Tega Cay and Foxwood, has found they cannot be trusted to keep their word. It seems to me that the Public Services Commission, recognizing their egregious failure to fulfill their responsibilities, should have long ago withdrawn their charter to operate this water system and turned it over to York County. That would be my fervent desire. Short of that, I would still like to see the hookup approved, for the benefits enumerated above. But the people of the neighborhood deserve to know how much they will be obligated to pay to achieve this, and upon what terms.

I would very much appreciate your consideration of these points.

Yours truly,


Frank Bynum
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